

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Akihiko MATSUO et al.

Serial No. Unassigned

Group Art Unit: Unassigned

Filed: December 21, 2001

Examiner:

For: TEST SPECIFICATION FORMATION SUPPORTING APPARATUS, METHOD, AND PROGRAM, AND RECORDING MEDIUM

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Before examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND the following claims:

14. (Once Amended) An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said test specification forming unit further has a combination evaluating unit which, when the conditions described in said test factor classification table are combined, designates an upper limit of the number of conditions including the conditions which are classified into the abnormality process.

15. (Once Amended) An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said test specification forming unit further has a combination evaluating unit which, when the conditions described in said test factor classification table are combined, designates one of a plurality of normality conditions which are classified into the normality process in the same test factor as a representative normality condition and allows said representative normality condition to be combined with the abnormality conditions which are classified into the abnormality process.

16. (Once Amended) An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said test specification forming unit further has a combination evaluating unit which, when the conditions described in said test factor classification table are combined, restricts the normality conditions which can be combined with respect to the combination of only the normality conditions.

30. (Once Amended) A method according to claim 23, wherein in said test specification forming step, further, when the conditions described in said test factor classification table are combined, an upper limit of the number of conditions including the conditions which are classified into the abnormality process is designated.

31. (Once Amended) A method according to claim 23, wherein in said test specification forming step, further, when the conditions described in said test factor classification table are combined, one of a plurality of normality conditions which are classified into the normality process in the same test factor is designated as a representative normality condition and combined with the abnormality conditions which are classified into the abnormality process.

32. (Once Amended) A method according to claim 23, wherein in said test specification forming step, further, when the conditions described in said test factor classification table are combined, the normality conditions which can be combined are restricted with respect to the combination of only the normality conditions.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to improve the form of the specification as originally-filed.

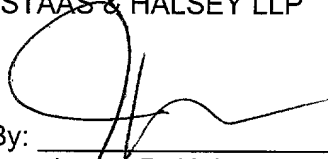
It is respectfully requested that this Preliminary Amendment be entered in the above-referenced application.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 12/20/01

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND the following claims:

14. (Once Amended) An apparatus according to claim 7[or 9], wherein said test specification forming unit further has a combination evaluating unit which, when the conditions described in said test factor classification table are combined, designates an upper limit of the number of conditions including the conditions which are classified into the abnormality process.

15. (Once Amended) An apparatus according to claim 7[or 9], wherein said test specification forming unit further has a combination evaluating unit which, when the conditions described in said test factor classification table are combined, designates one of a plurality of normality conditions which are classified into the normality process in the same test factor as a representative normality condition and allows said representative normality condition to be combined with the abnormality conditions which are classified into the abnormality process.

16. (Once Amended) An apparatus according to claim 7[or 9], wherein said test specification forming unit further has a combination evaluating unit which, when the conditions described in said test factor classification table are combined, restricts the normality conditions which can be combined with respect to the combination of only the normality conditions.

30. (Once Amended) A method according to claim 23[or 25], wherein in said test specification forming step, further, when the conditions described in said test factor classification table are combined, an upper limit of the number of conditions including the conditions which are classified into the abnormality process is designated.

31. (Once Amended) A method according to claim 23[or 25], wherein in said test specification forming step, further, when the conditions described in said test factor classification table are combined, one of a plurality of normality conditions which are classified into the normality process in the same test factor is designated as a representative normality condition and combined with the abnormality conditions which are classified into the abnormality process.

32. (Once Amended) A method according to claim 23[or 25], wherein in said test specification forming step, further, when the conditions described in said test factor classification table are combined, the normality conditions which can be combined are restricted with respect to the combination of only the normality conditions.